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ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE NATIONALE (ATN)

Second Semester Report

**April 2006 – September 2006
and**

**Annual Summary of Activities
Fiscal year 2006**



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**Abt Associates Incorporated, Helen Keller International, IntraHealth International,
Johns Hopkins University/ Center for Communications for Population, IBEX, SSDS**

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Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANC	Antenatal Care
ATN	National Technical Assistance Project
CERDI	Center for International Development Studies
CNI	National Center for Immunization (Immunization section)
CNIECS	Center for the Information, Education, and Communication for Health
CCIA	Inter Agency Coordination Committee
CDD	Control of the Diarrheal Disease
CLIC	Community Learning and Information Center
cMYP	Comprehensive Multi-year Plan for Immunization
CPN	Prenatal Consultation
CPS	Planning Division of the Ministry of Health
CREDOS	Center for Research and Documentation for Child Health
CRDI	Study Center for International Development
CROCEP	Regional planning process in support of PRODESS
CSCOM	Community Health Center
DNS	National Direction of the Health
DN	Division of Nutrition
DPT	Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus Vaccine
DSR	Division of Reproductive Health
DSSAN	Nutrition Monitoring Unit of the CPS
DPM	Direction of Pharmacy and Medicines
EDS	Demographic and Health Survey
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
FNUAP	UN Fund for Population
GOM	Government of Mali
HKI	Helen Keller International
HPP	Post-Partum Hemorrhage
IPC / FP	Interpersonal Counseling / Family Planning Technology
INRSP	National Institute of Public Health Research
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria
KC	Keneya Ciwara
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MHO	Mutuelle Health Organization
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIDs	National Immunization Days
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PRODESS	Program for the Development of Health and Social Services
PNLP	National Malaria Control Program
POPPHI	Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative
PPH	Postpartum hemorrhaging
PPM	Malian People's Pharmacy
PSNAN	National Strategic Plan for Nutrition
PEV	Expanded Program for Immunizations
PCIME	Integrated Management of Child Illness
PF	Family Planning

PNP	Policy Norms and Procedures
RED	Reach Every District (ACD)
SIS	Health Information System
SIAN	National Nutrition Weeks
SP	Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine
SRO	Oral Rehydration Salts
TPI	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URTEL	Malian Radio and Television Union
VAS	Vitamin A supplementation
VAT	Anti-tetanus Vaccine
WHO	World Health Organization

1 Introduction

The present report summarizes the key technical activities of the second semester of fiscal year 2006 (April - September 2006) for the USAID Health Program / National Technical Assistance (ATN) project. This fiscal year is the third year of operations for ATN and the final year of its base contract which ended September 30, 2006.

ATN's activities continue to be the result of a high level of collaboration with the Ministry of the Health (MOH) and the high impact service divisions. Through a process of ongoing consultation with USAID Mali's Health team and a productive collaboration with the Ministry of the Health and other partners, ATN is able to work towards achieving USAID's strategic objective (SO 6) in health: Increased Use of High Impact Services, within the framework of PRODESS II.

This second semester report presents the two major project components: high impact services and cross-cutting interventions. The report summarizes activities carried out during this period, lessons learned and obstacles encountered, and outlines planned activities for the first semester of Option Year 1 of ATN (Year 4, FY 2007). ATN worked with the staff from the different high impact service divisions of the MOH on the preparation of workplans for Calendar Year 2007 due to the changes in the planning cycle.

Contract Changes and ATN response:

During this semester USAID Mali implemented an external program review of the bilateral health portfolio. In June, USAID approved the extension of the ATN contract through FY 07 and requested Abt Associates as the prime contractor to make changes to ATN's personnel and strategy.

Specifically, USAID requested the formation of two teams: a Maternal Health and Family Planning Team and a Child Survival Team. An expatriate Maternal Health/Family Planning Advisor, Dr. Timothée Gandaho, was hired and oriented. The former DCOP, Lisa Nichols, was assigned to the COP position. The revised ATN strategy will emphasize the provision of technical assistance at the policy level. ATN will focus on high impact health service policy strengthening, scale up, national level training, and dissemination. A team building workshop for ATN was held followed by a strategic planning workshop. The workplan was prepared and submitted in September 2006 for the new fiscal year and reflects the new approach and strategy of ATN.

The following is a brief summary of the project's key achievements for Fiscal Year 2006.

2 Summary of FY 2006 Activities and Achievements

Nutrition:

- **National Nutrition Week (SIAN):** ATN provided technical and financial assistance in the advocacy, planning, coordination and organization of the

SIAN for November 2005 and again for May 2006. The SIAN coverage for May was 87.8% of children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A, which represents 2,166,876 children.

- **Integration of Vitamin A with NIDs:** ATN played an important role in catalyzing the decision to integrate vitamin A supplementation with NIDs to address the infrequent distribution of vitamin A in 2005.
- **Pilot Testing of Deworming with National Nutrition Week:** In May 2006 ATN supported financial and technical implementation of a first ever pilot test for deworming of children 12-59 months in the Koulikoro region during the SIAN. 252,202 children were dewormed, representing 73% of the target group.
- **National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN):** ATN provided technical assistance to the DSSAN in the preparation of the presentation of the National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN) to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Health.

Vaccination

- **National Immunization Days (NIDs):** ATN provided technical assistance in planning, training, and communication for National Immunization Days for polio in November and December 2005 and carried out NIDs supervision in the regions of Timbuktu and Segou. An interpersonal counseling card was validated and printed for 3,000 vaccinator/volunteers.
- **Reach Every District (RED):** From March 2005 to May of 2006 ATN provided technical and financial assistance to national, regional, and local health officials in the introduction and implementation of the “Reach Every District” approach for the improvement of routine EPI coverage in Niafunke and Goundam, two cercles in the region of Timbuktu with weak immunization coverage. Results show that since the inception of RED the DPT3 rates in Goundam have increased from 15% in December 2004 to 48% in August 2006; in Niafunke coverage increased from 31% to 61% in the same time period.
- **EPI review:** ATN staff participated in three sub-commissions of the EPI review – those addressing vaccination coverage, communication and institutional and financial aspects of EPI. A draft document has been produced and when validated by the CCIA will contribute to the development of Mali’s Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for vaccination.

Family Planning and Maternal Health

- **Provider Training and Supervision:** Prepared and implemented a training session in Family Planning Technology and Interpersonal Counseling (FP/IPC) for 27 providers. Supervised with the DSR, FP service providers who have participated in previous FP/IPC trainings in the Gao region and funded supervision in four other regions.
- **Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Reproductive Health:** Organized with the DNS the official presentation of PNP documents and facilitated with the DSR the PNP training of trainers workshop for 31 participants from all nine regions.

- **Repositioning Family Planning:** Finalized the Mali action plan for repositioning family planning during a November workshop with 35 participants from all partner organizations. Actively participated in the planning and implementation of the family planning campaign in March 2006.
- **Gender:** Participated in the USAID partners' gender workshop and organized and facilitated the Gender Integration workshop with the DNS with 30 participants from Mali's 9 regions.
- **Reproductive Health Communication Strategy:** In collaboration with the DNS, UNFPA and other partners ATN provided technical and financial assistance for the planning and implementation of a national workshop for the development of a reproductive health communication strategy for the MOH. Participants came from all nine regions in Mali.

Malaria

- **Intermittent Preventive Treatment:** Implemented the new MOH Policy on IPT through the support of the training of trainers and health workers in Focused Antenatal Care for the district of Bamako (60 trainers were trained at the regional level and 80 health workers were trained, 20 from each of the following communes: II, III, V, VI) and Mopti region (30 trainers were trained).and the broadcasting of radio spots in 9 languages. An evaluation of the Focused ANC training occurred and the results were disseminated in a national workshop.

Control of Diarrheal Diseases

- **Hand washing Study:** Provided technical input to the Hygiene Division of the DNS in the design of a hand washing behavior study of mothers of children under-five.

Health Reform

- **Finalization of Donor Mapping:** Sponsored a workshop for the finalization of the donor mapping report and established ACCESS data base for updating donor information.
- **Support to National Health Accounts:** Completed data collection and prepared the analysis tables with the PHRplus and AWARE team.

Mutual Health Organizations

- **Dissemination of Best Practices:** Assisted the CPS in the presentation of bivariate results of the MHO evaluation at the CERDI for a conference on "Health financing in the developing countries." Participated in the regional meeting in Senegal to capitalize on the lessons learned on MHO development in West Africa.

Cross-Cutting Behavior Change Communication

- **High Impact Health Services Communication:** Supported the development of the Message Guide, the CD-Rom for CLICS, and the completion of a fourteen episode radio series on high impact health services in Mali entitled "Heremakono".

3 COMPONENT I: High Impact Services

3.1 Nutrition

Accomplishments of the past six months

The present report reflects the different activities of the Nutrition component of ATN. These activities were carried out in collaboration with the Division of Nutrition (DN) National Direction of Health (DNS).

National Nutrition Week (SIAN)

ATN took an active role in providing support to the DN for the advocacy, planning, coordination and organization of the SIAN for May 2006 (first edition). The SIAN coverage for May was 87.8% of children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A, which represents 2,166,876 children. Women in post-partum also received Vitamin A – 65,458 women or 95% of the estimated target group.

Specific activities that were supported included:

- Resource mobilization for the SIAN (preparing budgets and assisting with advocacy). ATN provided financing of the operational costs of the SIAN in Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal regions. Unfortunately insecurity in the Kidal region flared up during the SIAN and the activity was interrupted mid week. However, a major portion of the children had already been reached prior to this.
- Production of a technical note, guide and communication tools for the SIAN
- Preparing estimations Vitamin A capsule needs for 2006
- Planning and assisting the DN with a microplanning workshop for regional health staff to prepare for the SIAN. During this workshop budgets were prepared and revised to cut costs. In collaboration with the DN over 100,000 USD was cut from the operations budgets.
- Printing and dispatching tools for data collection to the three Northern regions
- Logistical and financial support was provided for the supervision by the national level DN of the SIAN in key regions.
- Support was provided for the compilation and dissemination of the final results in August 2006 of the May round of the SIAN.

Pilot Testing of Deworming with National Nutrition Week

In May 2006 ATN supported financial and technical implementation of a first ever pilot test for deworming of children 12-59 months in the Koulikoro region. 252,202 children were dewormed representing 73% of the target group. Activities supported with technical and financial assistance included:

- Planning and development of tools for deworming with SIAN in collaboration with the DN, the Sahel Project (HKI, UNICEF) and the Regional Direction of Health for Koulikoro. The tools were designed for data collection and a checklist for supervisors of the deworming activity.

- Planning of albendazole needs with the support of the Schistosomiasis Control Project and the Geohelminth control project.
- Training of regional trainers took place and two agents per health district were trained along with four from the regional level.

A regional follow up meeting was held and lessons learned were discussed and solutions were identified. Some of the issues raised were: handling of albendazole was difficult as it had to be cut in half for children 12-24 months, data collection was inconsistent with vitamin A (estimation of target group, etc.), and further training of health personnel is needed in deworming techniques. There will be a national dissemination of this experience in FY07. The DN is planning on extending the deworming activity gradually to other regions in the November 2006 SIAN.

An abstract was prepared on this pilot activity and submitted to the Micronutrient Forum to be held in Turkey in April 2007.

National Directives on Vitamin A Supplementation

Financial and technical support was provided for the development of National Directives for Vitamin A supplementation. A workshop was held with stakeholders in July of 2006. The document from the workshop was shared for technical fine tuning with Dr. Mohamed Ag Bendeck of HKI's regional office for West Africa. .

Development of Protocols for case management of malnutrition and revision and validation of PNP for Nutrition

- ATN supported the DN in the organization of technical meetings for the revision of the PNP for Nutrition
- Existing documents were amended and improved with technical assistance from ATN and HKI.
- A workshop was organized with ATN support for the preparation and for the development of the protocols for case management of malnutrition in July and August 2006. In order to prepare the protocol, existing documentation was gathered along with relevant reference documents.

Activities in synergy with World Education

- Activity Boards for Vitamin A promotion were finalized with input from World Education. They will be printed and given to World Education in FY07.
- Pretesting of the activity boards were carried out in Gao and Kati cercles in collaboration with CNIECS. The results will be incorporated into the final version to be printed in FY07.

World Breastfeeding Week

ATN provided financial and technical support to the planning and implementation of the World Breastfeeding week in which the theme was "Code Watch: 25 years of Protecting Breastfeeding". The launch this year was decentralized and held in Segou on August 1. ATN sponsored the broadcasting of breastfeeding messages by eight radio stations (5 in Bamako and 3 in Segou)

Other key activities and events

Coordination and technical assistance to the Nutrition Division and the DNS

- Technical assistance provided to the DN for the Millennium Village Project (UN) which will be implemented in Segou.
- Participation in the Bamako CROCEP.
- Technical assistance to the DN for the revision of its Workplan for 2007
- Technical assistance for the preparation of the country report for the Mali team participating in the CEDEAO Nutrition forum in Cap Vert in September. ATN supported the participation of six participants (4 from the DNS, 1 from REMANUT, and 1 from the CPS).

ATN continues to be solicited for participation in planning and technical meetings on topics such as neonatal health (SNL), Child Survival (HKI), malnutrition (WFP), food fortification (HKI) and various other technical meetings.

Lessons Learned

The CROCEP process continues to be an opportunity to decentralize and integrate financing of the SIAN at the regional level. The continuous provision of technical assistance by ATN to the Nutrition Division contributes to the mobilization of other partners and improves overall advocacy for the institutionalization of the SIAN.

Key activities planned for the next six months

- Technical and financial assistance in the planning and organization of the November 2006 SIAN (financing of three Northern regions).
- Technical and financial assistance in the roll out of deworming of children during the November SIAN.
- Preparation of validation workshop for the Nutrition PNP and dissemination of the PNP document.
- Increased focus on zinc for diarrhea case management – participation in WHO workshop in Benin in October 2006.

Conclusion

The continuous technical assistance provided by ATN to the Nutrition Division, with the goal of reaching high vitamin A supplementation among children, has in effect enabled the nutrition division to mobilize both the government (with additional funding for the May SIAN) and other partners (WFP provided enriched flour for the SIAN in their project areas) to support the SIAN platform.

ATN continues to use the SIAN platform for other nutrition related activities as demonstrated in the pilot activity which tested the integration of deworming. Should the SIAN continue to reach more than 80% of the target group of children 6 to 59 months it will become an effective vehicle for the successful delivery of “population based scheduled activities” which has recently been endorsed as a delivery strategy in WHO and UNICEF’s Child Survival strategy for Africa.

3.2 Vaccination

Accomplishments of the past six months

ATN's vaccination activities during the past six months involved the monitoring of the implementation of RED with the MOH in the cercles of Niafunke and Goundam and the preparation and implementation of the EPI external review. The results of the review will contribute to the development of Mali's Comprehensive Multi-year plan for 2007 -2011.

Reach Every District

- ATN provided assistance to the national, regional, and district level health officials for the organization of supervisory visits, monitoring meetings in the functioning sub-districts, and with a national supervision to the Timbuktu region.
- ATN is documenting the RED experience in order to share lessons learned for the roll out and replication of RED in other districts as planned by the MOH with WHO and UNICEF support.

Technical Support to the Immunization Section

ATN continues its mandate to provide technical support to the Immunization Section. In this semester ATN's immunization advisor:

- Participated in the technical committee of the CCIA
- Prepared technical notes for the CCIA
- Participated in preparatory meetings for the development of the cMYP (Comprehensive Multi-Year plan).

Coordination and Technical assistance to the DNS

- ATN participated in the regional EPI directors meeting held in Burkina Faso. The focus of these meetings is an exchange and discussion around 1) progress in Polio eradication, 2) strengthening routine EPI and 3) new technical information on vaccination delivery.
- Participated in CROCEP meeting in Timbuktu
- Participated in Crisis management committee meetings for the organization of a Yellow Fever vaccination campaign in 15 districts.

Communication Activities

- ATN continued to support the broadcasting of the radio program for EPI (a tool developed through the PIC PEV) in three Northern languages (Peul, Songhai, and Tamashek) for Goundam and Niafunké.
- Active participation as facilitators in a validation workshop of the communication tools for social mobilization for EPI. The workshop validated NIDs training guides for vaccinators and supervisors and the counseling cards for polio vaccinators for NIDs, two tools in which ATN had been instrumental in developing.

Lessons Learned

The EPI review was finally completed after many false starts and delays. The delays were overcome through the strong advocacy of the immunization partners at many levels, particularly for the mobilization of GAVI funds for the survey. A draft report has been prepared and will be validated in early FY07 by the CCIA.

Insecurity in the North of Mali, in particular in Kidal, had a ripple effect on other Northern activities and delayed the RED implementation in Niafunke and Goundam. National level participation in these activities was also adversely affected as all travel to the area was suspended for a period of time.

Key Activities planned for the next six months

- Participation in the development of the cMYP for EPI
- Participation in the dissemination of the EPI review
- Organization of a workshop for traditional communicators for the support of vaccination activities

Conclusion

Vaccination activities this year were dominated by the NIDs in November and December which further delayed the EPI review. No further NIDs were programmed in 2006 and consequently the Immunization Section has been able to undertake other activities in support of routine EPI. Supervision activities of the RED districts and input to the EPI review are two major activities that were able to move ahead this past six months.

3.3 Maternal Health and Family Planning

Accomplishments of the past six months

The maternal health and family planning component this semester was heavily focused on training and supervision for improved quality of services in various domains of reproductive health, on family planning promotion, and on the development of a national communication strategy for reproductive health.

In accordance with the ATN workplan and in collaboration with the Reproductive Health Division (DSR) of the DNS and with Keneya Ciwara, the following activities were implemented during the last six months:

Training and Supervision

- Produced, printed, and disseminated the following reports:
 1. Workshop report on Gender Integration in Ministry of Health Programs
 2. Workshop report on Repositioning of Family Planning
 3. Synthesis document of six training sessions for trainers, supervisors, and health agents in IPC/FP.

- Financed the training of trainers and health workers in Focused Antenatal Care for the district of Bamako (60 trainers were trained at the regional level and 80 health workers were trained, 20 from each of the following communes: II, III, V, VI) and Mopti region (30 trainers were trained).
- Provided technical support for the elaboration of supervision tools for health workers trained in Focused Antenatal Care. ATN wrote the questionnaire for the evaluation of agents' knowledge and drafted the data collection sheet for the supervision visits.
- Financed and participated in supervision visits to health workers trained in Focused Antenatal Care for all regions of Mali except Ségou which has not yet held a training session.
- Provided technical support in the development of the indicators and the supervision and evaluation tools for the pilot program to test the feasibility of the implementation of AMTSL by matrones.
- Participated in the African Regional Conference on the Prevention of PPH in Uganda.
- Financed and participated in the dissemination of the results of the pilot project introducing AMTSL to midwives and obstetrical nurses in Mali and the presentation of results from the PPPH Conference in Uganda.
- Participated in the training of trainers and the training of matrones in AMTSL for the circle of Sikasso for the pilot project to test the feasibility of the implementation of AMTSL by matrones for the prevention of PPH.

Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Reproductive Health

- Selected technical notes and job aides from the PNP and collected examples from other countries in order to finalize the PNP documents that will be disseminated on the CSCoM level.

Family Planning Campaign

- Financed and ensured the recording and diffusion of films and round tables on family planning themes on television and radio.
- Financed and supported newspaper journalists to write and print articles on family planning and on the launch of the family planning campaign.
- Organized preliminary discussions and follow through on the beginning stages of a qualitative study on family planning.

Family Planning Promotion

- With a focus on family planning themes, ATN provided technical and financial support to the National Assembly of Midwives of Mali, the national conference of gynecologists and obstetricians of Mali, and provided technical support for the medical student's activity weeks in commune I, III, and V.
- Provided technical and financial support for the family planning awareness day for leaders and decision makers organized by the women's network for the promotion of family planning.

- Participated in a working group to improve messages created by PSI on the implication of men in family planning decisions.

Safe Motherhood

- Participated in and provided technical and financial support to the organization of the National Day for Safe Motherhood.

Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health

- Completed the situational analysis for the National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health.
- Provided technical and financial support to the elaboration, validation, and finalization workshops for the National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health.
- Supported the launch of a documentation unit at the DSR: financed equipment and furnished training manuals.

Partnership

- Working meetings with the Keneya Ciwara and Intrahealth trainers for Keneya Ciwara.
- Participated in the CROCEPS meeting for the Ségou region.
- Participated in finalizing the Family Planning Brochure with USAID.
- Participated in other activities for maternal health promotion: Emergency Obstetrical Care Training, Workshop on the Roadmap to Maternal and Neonatal Health sponsored by WHO.
- In partnership with ACQUIRE, participated in planning meetings for the promotion of the IUD and for the development of a communication strategy for IUD promotion.
- Participated in promotion meetings and training on the Standard Days Method sponsored by the Institute for Reproductive Health/Georgetown University.
- Participated in discussions with UNFPA and JHU for consensus building on the process of elaborating the National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health.

Lessons Learned

Collaboration with Keneya Ciwara and the DSR allowed for improved management of maternal health and family planning activities. Meetings with other family planning partners, particularly USAID partners, allowed for improved collaboration for the Family Planning Campaign and improved the provision of support to the DSR.

The collaborative funding with UNFPA provided the necessary resources for the successful creation of a national communication strategy for reproductive health.

The supervision of health workers trained in Focused Antenatal Care permitted the detection of programming gaps in the program and enabled the revision of the training module and supervision tools.

Key activities planned for the next six months

- Finalize the PNP technical notes and job aides.
- Support the DSR in organizing family planning working group meetings, information exchange meetings on results of family planning activities, and Vision 2010 group meetings.
- Organize collaborative meetings between health communication stakeholders.
- Assist the DSR in the implementation of the pilot project to test the feasibility of the implementation of AMTSL by matrones for the prevention of PPH in the circles of Sikasso, Koulikoro, and Gao.
- Assure the refresher training and supervision of trainers in Focused Antenatal Care.
- Participate in planning activities for the 2007 Family Planning Campaign.
- Provide financial and technical support for the revision of supervision tools and evaluation of the policy of free c-sections.
- Ensure the completion of the qualitative study on family planning.
- Provide financial and technical support for the creation of supervision tools for family planning activities.
- Disseminate information on best practices for maternal health, family planning, and communication to key stakeholders.
- Ensure the dissemination of the National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health.
- Coordinate activities for the promotion of the IUD and participate in the creation of messages for IUD promotion.
- Ensure the participation of ATN staff and government agents in international meetings on maternal health and family planning and/or on communication for reproductive health.

Conclusion

The availability of both human and financial resources will be indispensable for the implementation of our activities in the anticipated timeframe, particularly in light of the presidential and legislative elections in 2007.

3.4 Malaria

Accomplishments of the past six months

In the third year of the project, ATN assisted the MOH in rolling out the IPT activities to the entire country and in further defining its case management and ITN policy.

IPT rollout: communications

- ATN has finalized the contract with URTEL for the broadcasting of radio spots and many local radios are already broadcasting the spots according to a agreed upon broadcasting plan. These radio spots have been broadcast in 9 local languages in 59 health districts. ATN has also collaborated with AFRICARE in delivery of radio spots for local radio in its intervention area.

IPT rollout: Focused ANC (See Maternal Health section)

ATN, in collaboration with the DSR and the PNLP, has supported the MOH in its training for the Focused ANC. Thus, the new IPT policy has been integrated in the overall Focused ANC training, where the IPT and Insecticide treated bednets are a key focus of the training.

- In collaboration with MAC/JHPIEGO, the DSR, and the PNLP, ATN assisted in the developing and defining the training curriculum for the “Focused ANC” which is the main implementation strategy to roll out the new IPT policy in the country.
- A list of indicators were developed and field visits to selected sites were undertaken to see the impact of the training on ANC service delivery. The field visits were carried out following an initial workshop to select indicators held by ACCESS. For the field visits, tools included observation (at least three observations per health provider) and health provider interview. At least one CSCo from each region in Mali was chosen and national and regional teams went out to these CSCos to undertake the assessment. The process was innovative in that regional staff were supervised by other regional staff and not only by national level staff.
- ATN assisted the District of Bamako and the region of Mopti financially and technically in implementation of the Focused ANC training. A cascade training was applied, with each region training a set of core trainers, who then trained matrons in each cercle. The training lasted 3 days, and included pretest and post-test assessments. Matrons are the frontline for ANC in Mali, especially in the rural areas that makes up the vast majority of the country.

The evaluation, among other findings, found inconsistent application of ITN and IPT protocols. Supplies of Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine (S-P) have been problematic. This issue has been raised often in discussions with the MOH at the regional level and below and may hamper the future of the implementation of the IPT policy. Distribution of ITNs free to women attending ANC visits is stimulating participation in ANC but is creating stockouts of ITNs.

Technical Assistance to the Global Fund proposal

ATN played a key role in assisting the MOH in defining the steps and writing the proposal for malaria funding for Round VI of the AIDS, TB, and Malaria Global Fund. ATN provided TA to help define the steps to proposal preparation, to develop consensus on the content of the proposal, and to facilitate discussion of issues around the new malaria policies such as the first line drug, free provision of ACT's for children under five, issues around subsidies, and presumptive treatment versus

parasitological diagnosis. For example one area discussed was the costs versus the benefits of using parasitological testing in stable malaria zones and the practical feasibility of using rapid malaria tests.

Key activities for the next six months

- Continuation and follow up of radio broadcasting with local radio stations
- Providing a second round of assistance to the PNLP and DSR to follow up on the ANC training.
- Assisting the PNLP in planning for the implementation of the Round VI funding, should Mali's application be accepted.

Conclusion

ATN continued to focus on IPT as a key malaria intervention. Access to IPT will be enhanced by the increasing emphasis by the MOH on ANC as a delivery platform for prenatal care. Addressing issues around drug supply and provider adherence to norms and procedures will be key to the success of IPT. The recently signed National Malaria Strategy will also reinforce the strengthening of malaria prevention and case management activities.

3.5 Control of Diarrheal Diseases

Accomplishments of the past six months

Hygiene strategy development

ATN participated in a national workshop on Water Disinfection at the Community and Household level organized by the Hygiene Division of the DNS and WHO.

Promotion of low osmolarity ORS

ATN is working with the DNS on the production of a technical note on the new low osmolarity ORS. However, due to the continued unavailability of this ORS in the pharmaceutical supply chain the technical note and efforts to reinvigorate demand will be delayed to FY07.

Key Activities for the next six months

- ATN will continue to work with the Hygiene Division of the DNS in the development of a national strategy for handwashing. This was originally planned for FY06 but has been delayed due to other priorities of the division.
- ATN will continue to monitor the availability of ORS and follow the recommendations of the zinc workshop to be held in October.

4 COMPONENT II: Cross-cutting Interventions

4.1 Health Reform

Accomplishments of the past six months

ATN continued its activities in the area of health reform, within the PRODESS framework. In particular, ATN participated in several national workshops, consultative meetings and other activities organized by the Ministry of Health as part of the PRODESS Technical and Monitoring Committee.

Main activities for ATN included:

Finalization of Donor mapping

- The Donor mapping database (DOSECSA) was adapted to the PRODESS as per the recommendations from the validation workshop. It is now available in Access with a guide on how to use the data and has been transferred to the CPS.

Support to PRODESS

- ATN participated in the CROCEP for Calendar Year 2007 in order to promote the programming of high impact health services and to provide information relative to the financial resources and mechanisms available from USAID. This participation was limited due to the timing of the meetings but nevertheless helped improve coordination of funding and improve the understanding of USAID's contribution to PRODESS.

Support to National Health Accounts:

- The Mali NHA team received the recommendations from a PHRplus and AWARE team mission to Mali (February 20 - March 3, 2006) to assist in the finalization of the analysis tables. The recommendations were transmitted in an official memo to the Steering Committee for the NHA. However, in the meantime the NHA team produced a draft report and submitted it to the steering committee (without incorporating the recommendations from the consulting mission). ATN considers these recommendations key to the production of a quality document by the NHA team and will strongly urge the team to incorporate them in the next draft.
- A sub regional training workshop in June 2006 was held on the NHA with the participation of seven countries (Mali, Rwanda, Madagascar, Algeria, Burkina Faso, and Niger) who have recently produced NHA tables. UEMOA and the BOAD also participated in the workshop. This training was an opportunity for the Malian team to benefit from other countries' experiences and lessons learned to improve the quality of the report.

Other activities

- ATN participated in the validation of the manual for the revised SLIS (Local Health Information System) and in the training of private sector providers in the use of the Information System. The objective of the latter activity is to encourage the private sector to provide information to the MOH information system.
- ATN with the MOH and Keneya Ciwara participated in the development of a manual for improving the management skills of ASACO members and CSCOM personnel. This activity will contribute to institutional strengthening of decentralized management structures within the health system.

Lessons Learned

There have been delays between programming, resource mobilization and planning of activities for the following year. The NHA technical assistance visit provided an opportunity to identify specific weaknesses in the NHA process and to provide clear orientation to the national NHA team. It is important that the NHA report reflect this input in order to ensure the quality of the NHA tables.

Key Activities for the next 6 months

ATN will focus on the following activities:

- Supporting the PRODESS by continuing to participate in planning and supervision meetings.
- Supporting the follow up and improvement of the NHA report and its dissemination.
- Validation of the DOSECSA database.

4.2 Mutual Health Organizations**Accomplishments of the last six months**

ATN organized the following activities, in collaboration with the CPS of the Ministry of Health.

- Production by PHRplus of the final report on MHO evaluation in French and English (PHRplus ended September 2006). The report will take into account the recommendations from the dissemination workshop held in 2005. Professional journal articles are being prepared on the results.

Lessons Learned

This evaluation activity has underscored the need for a strategic plan for MHOs with various partner and stakeholder roles clearly outlined along with financial and

technical assistance. The Ministry of Social Affairs which is now leading the development of next steps for the MHO, will prepare a national MHO strategy with the assistance of an experienced consultant familiar with all MHO models.

Major obstacles were identified in the MHO report. A solution to these will be the development of a strategic plan with a strong capacity building component and an IEC / advocacy component for the promotion of MHO's. ATN will work with the consultant hired by the MSA in order to ensure that these areas are adequately addressed. Financial resources have also been identified as an obstacle.

Key Activities for the next 6 months:

- Support the development of a Strategic Plan for MHO Development in Mali.

4.3 Behavior Change Communication (cross-cutting)

Accomplishments of the past six months

- Message guide on high impact health services: A consultant was identified and produced a draft version of the guide that was the subject of a workshop with MOH and partner participation.
- Cd-Rom for CLICS: Identification and initial selection of BCC materials and tools on high impact health services to be included in a Cd-rom for the CLICs
- Radio series on high impact health services- *The Awakening of Hérémakono*: support to the production and review of the fourteen episode series which was validated in February by a multi-division working group comprised of the National Direction of Health, CNIECS, Keneya Ciwara, and the National Direction of Social Affairs. During this semester the National Director of Health and his staff reviewed the radio series in order to support the eventual broadcast. 200 sets of 7 tapes were produced and distributed to partners that participated in the development.

Key activities for the next six months

- Radio series on high impact health services: Broadcast the weekly program in collaboration with the DNS;
- Organize monitoring of the broadcasting
- Finalize and print the message guide on high impact health services for dissemination

5 Additional activities

- ATN continued to participate in working group discussions with WHO, USAID and CREDOS on current ARI case management policies for the community level and proposed research and pilot activities. Adapting other country experiences, such as those of Senegal, was discussed and a strategy to best disseminate these results in order to advocate for community management of

ARI was developed. Terms of reference will be prepared which will examine antibiotic use at the community level in light of eventually developing a protocol for testing community case management of ARI by relais.

- ATN participated in preparation meetings for CREDOS's Scientific meeting on Child Health to be held in November 2006

6 Key Indicators

Health Program / National Technical Assistance Project Expected Results for 2006

Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (FY '06)	Comments
Impact Results					
% of children 6 – 59 months of age who have received one dose of vitamin A in the past six months.	MOH or DHS III (ntl.)	78%	80%	87.8%	Source : MOH, May 2006 SIAN
Process Results for Nutrition					
1. National Guidelines on vitamin A supplementation disseminated	Nutrition Division/ DNS / ATN	0	1 national guidelines document is disseminated in 8 regions and Bamako District	Draft prepared; to be validated in FY 07	National guidelines for vitamin A supplementation replaced original result of “National strategy for micronutrients”.
2. Write and reproduce job aids / cue cards for service providers on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and Vitamin A supplementation.	Nutrition Division/ DNS / ATN	0	Job aids	Job aids included in PNP (FY 07)	Job aids to be selected and reproduced in FY07
3. Validate information boards for Vitamin A for use by partners	ATN / World Education/ Keneya Ciwara	0	Information boards available for larger dissemination by partners	Drafts pretested and ready for finalization	Information boards being finalized and pretest and production carried out

Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (FY '06)	Comments
Vaccination Results					
1. Support to the EPI Review	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	1 document (EPI review)	Draft completed	CCIA will validate in FY07
2. Participation in the development of the comprehensive multi-year plan for Vaccination	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	1 plan is available	0	Work on PPAC tools started
3. Organize two monitoring sessions in two cercles for RED	ATN, DNS, DRS, Cercles (Trip Reports)	0	2 cercles ; 2 trip reports	2 cercles completed – Trip reports submitted	Additional support to be provided to two MOH sponsored RED cercles in 2006. A radio program in RED cercles has been introduced in two rural radios to support activities.
4. Organize a workshop to develop an IPC training program for traditional communicators and vaccinators	DNS/CNIECS/ATN	0	2 workshops and 2 training modules on IPC validated	2 validation workshops	
5. Design, develop, and produce cue cards (job aids) for NIDs vaccinators	DNS/CNIECS/ATN	0	1 tool available for vaccinators	1 tool validated	3,000 copies printed
CDD Results					
1. Job aid prepared for the new ORS	DNS / ATN	0	Job aid prepared with DSR	0	Result changed from new policy for CDD to job aid to promote new ORS to be

Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (FY '06)	Comments
Family Planning Results					
1. Training of trainers in FP/ IPC	DSR / DNS / ATN	20	20 trained	22 providers trained	done FY07 with PNP job aids One per FP unit that has not previously benefited, hospital providers, and other institutes and health organizations.
2. Dissemination of revised PNP for RH with job aids for Family Planning	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	Training of trainers for regions	22 trainers trained	All regions represented plus the Health Training Institute; job aids being identified
3. A national strategy for communication in RH	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	1 revised strategy	1 revised strategy	To be printed in FY07
4. Gender integration in the RH division's activities	DSR / DNS / ATN	30-50% of training workshop participants are women	50% of participants are women	To date, at least 50% of participants are women	For all workshops except FP/IPC (women's participation is a proxy indicator)
Malaria Results					
1. National policy widely disseminated	PNLP / DNS/ ATN	1 final policy document	1 document is widely disseminated		Document finalized in late FY06 / result shifted to FY07 Regions already trained is baseline (before ATN intervention) in IPT; however, new focused ANC with emphasis on
2. Health personnel trained in IPT and service provision	PNLP / DSR/ DNS/ ATN	Gao, Segou	Personnel trained in four regions	2 additional regions (Bamako and Mopti) have completed focused ANC training	

Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (FY '06)	Comments
3. Information campaign on IPT	ATN / PNL	1 campaign started	1 campaign completed	1 campaign underway in 59 health districts	IPT is being implemented in 2006 Television and radio spots are being carried out
4. Evaluation of the integration of IPT into focused ANC	ATN /DSR	0	1 evaluation	1 evaluation	All regions supervised; results available
Component 2 Results					
1. Donor mapping updated	ATN / CPS	1 questionnaire for donors updated	1 document available for PRODESS donors	1 document and database available	Data base also conceived and is available with document. The data base will be adapted for PRODESS II data.
2. Analysis of bottlenecks	ATN	0	1 document	1 draft available	To be finalized in FY07
3. Analysis of procedures for accessing and using DAF funds	ATN	0	1 Management guide	Guide submitted to the DAF	Guide for using financial assistance from USAID/Mali
4. Dissemination of lessons learned from MHO's	ATN	Initiated	1 meeting for validation of results	Report being finalized	Best practices report from Senegal PHRplus meeting
5. Message guide for high impact services	ATN/ CNIECS	0	1 message guide available	Draft message guide available	Document to be printed in FY07
6. Radio series for high impact services	ATN / DNS	0	14 episodes	Finalized and available for dissemination	Radio dissemination in FY07